

Application No.: 09/577,078

Docket No.: 04783/012001

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for courtesies extended during the Examiner Interview conducted on March 8, 2006.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 2-4 and 6-10 are currently pending in this application. Claims 2, 4, and 6-10 are independent. Claim 3 depends from claim 2. New claims 13 and 14 have been added by this reply.

Claim Amendments

Claims 2, 4, and 6-10 have been amended to replace various instances of "print engine" with "printer." Further, claims 2, 4, and 6-10 have been amended to replace all instances of "job" with "request." Both of the aforementioned clarifying amendments are supported by the specification and no new matter has been added by any of the aforementioned amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2-4 and 6-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶1, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims have been amended to clarify that the printer, and not the print engine, is directed to acquire data from a peripheral device. Thus, the aforementioned claims now satisfy the written description requirement. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 09/577,078

Docket No.: 04783/012001

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2-4 and 6-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,184,996 ("Gase"). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention relates to a method for acquiring and printing data. More specifically, the invention provides a print acceptance screen through which a client computer can submit a new print request. In one embodiment of the invention, the new print request lists the peripheral device on which the data to be printed is located. Thus, the data is not located on the client computer; rather, the data is located on the peripheral device. Further, the new print request may also list a printer (if there is more than one printer) to print the data.

Upon receiving the new print request from the client computer, the printer requests the peripheral device(s) listed in the new print request to acquire the data to be printed. Once the data is received by the printer, the data is printed.

Turning to the rejection, for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. The Applicant respectfully asserts that Gase does not disclose all the limitations of the claimed invention.

Specifically, Gase is directed to the management of a "print job" (*i.e.*, data that has already been designated for printing, but has not yet been printed) (*see* Gase, col. 3). Gase discloses that a print job may be created by a client processor (or an application executing on the client processor) (*see* Gase, col. 3, ll. 1-11). Once the print job has been created by one of the client processors, then the client processor that created the print job or any other client processor in the system can then submit the print job to the printer. (*see* Gase, col. 3, ll. 1-11, 24-30).

Application No.: 09/577,078

Docket No.: 04783/012001

Upon receiving print job, the printer places it in a job queue and identifies the print job using a URL. When the print job is eventually processed by the printer, the printer reviews the print job and determines the client processor that contains the data to be printed (*i.e.*, the client processor that *originally* created the print job, though not necessarily the client processor that submitted the print job). Once the client processor is determined, the printer sends it a request for the data to print. Upon receiving the data, the printer prints the data. (*see* Gase, col. 3, ll. 1-11, 24-30).

Turning to the claims, the claims require the presence of at least three components: (i) a client computer configured to create a print request, where the print request specifies data on a peripheral device; (ii) a printer configured to receive the print request, analyze the print request, and send a request for the data to the peripheral device listed in the print request; and (iii) a peripheral device configured to store the data and respond to the request for the data.

As discussed above, Gase discloses that (i) print jobs are *created* by the client processor upon which the data is stored and (ii) *any* client processor may submit the print job to the print job is created. However, there is no disclosure in Gase that teaches the creation of print job, where the data is located on a device (client computer or peripheral device) that is *remote* to the device creating the print job. Said another way, Gase only discloses the creating a print job, where the data to be printed is *local* to the client processor creating the print job.

In view of the above, Gase clearly fails to disclose creating a print request by a client computer, where the data to be printed is located on a remote device (*i.e.*, on a peripheral device). Thus, it is clear that Gase fails to anticipate independent claim 2 of the present invention. Thus, independent claim 2 is patentable over Gase. Dependent claim 3 is patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 2 from which it depends. Further, independent claims 4 and 6-10 recite similar patentable subject matter as independent claim 2

Application No.: 09/577,078

Docket No.: 04783/012001

and, thus, are patentable over Gase for at least the same reasons as independent claim 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

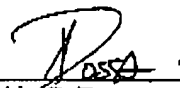
New independent claims 13 and 14 have been added by this reply. Support for new independent claim 13 may be found, for example, in Figure 11 and the corresponding text in the specification. Support for new independent claim 14 may be found, for example, in Figure 14 and the corresponding text in the specification. The Applicant respectfully asserts that Gase does not disclose any system in which two printers are involved in processing a print request as recited in the claims. Accordingly, the new independent claims are patentable over Gase.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04783/012001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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